

## Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 011135 Z JUN 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3139

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1610

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF USSR

REF: CAIRO 1566

1. EGYPTIAN - SOVIET RELATIONS HAS BEEN PROMINENT THEME  
IN VARIOUS EDITORIALS APPEARING IN CAIRO PRESS OVER PAST  
WEEK. FIRST MAJOR EDITORIAL IN THIS SERIES WAS WRITTEN  
BY MUSA SABRI AND APPEARED IN AKHBAR OF MAY 23. ARTICLE  
NOTED THAT EGYPT AND USSR WERE BOUND BY MUTUAL TREATY AND  
COMMON INTERESTS. NEVERTHELESS, EGYPT AND SOVIET UNION DO  
NOT AGREE ON BASIC ASSUMPTIONS RE ME CRISIS : SOVIETS STATE  
IT MUST BE SOLVED BY PEACEFUL MEANS, WHILE EGYPT BELIEVES  
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THAT MILITARY FORCE IS ONLY RECOURSE. TO EGYPT, TIME IS OF ESSENCE: WAITING FOR ARAB UNITY, TOTAL POPULAR MOBILIZATION AND SUFFICIENT ACQUISITION OF ARMS - AS SOVIETS ADVISE - ONLY DEBILITATES EGYPT. TO SOVIETS, POLICY OF DETENTE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ME ISSUE; SABRI STATES THAT THIS IS AN ERROR: SOVIETS SHOULD NOT TRUST US. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT A STOPPAGE OF THEIR ARMS SUPPLIES TO EGYPT " WOULD NOT BE COMMENSURATE WITH ( THEIR) PRESTIGE IN ARAB WORLD NOR WITH THE FUTURE OF ( THEIR) RELATIONS AND INTERESTS IN THE AREA." SABRI CONCLUDES WITH NOTE THAT SADAT'S " ALARM SIGNAL" TO SOVIETS ON MAY 1 " DID NOT SPRING FROM A VACUUM... THE QUESTION IS WHETHER WE SHALL ADVANCE OR LET OURSELVES BE TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT."

2. MAY 31 ISSUE OF GUMHURIYYA CARRIES EDITORIAL BY SAMI DAUD IN ESSENTIALLY SIMILAR VEIN, TO EFFECT THAT EGYPT AND SOVIET UNION DISAGREE ON APPROACH TO ME CRISIS. IN DAUD'S WORDS, "... WE ARE NOT AGAINST DETENTE BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS, BUT WE ARE DEAD SET AGAINST SUCH A POLICY AFFECTING OUR ABILITY TO LIBERATE OUR LAND." EDITORIAL NOTES REMARK MADE BY SADAT TO YUGOSLAV CORRESPONDENT AND PUBLISHED MAY 28, ( REFTEL) THAT SOVIETS MUST ASSUME PART OF BLAME FOR CURRENT ME DEADLOCK.

3. MOST RECENT ISSUE OF MUSAWWAR ALSO CONTAINS ARTICLE, BY SENIOR WRITER FIKRI ABAZA, STATING THAT SOVIETS HAVE DONE VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO ACTIVATE ME SITUATION OR SUPPLY WEAPONRY TO ARABS IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO OFFSET ISRAELI MILITARY SUPERIORITY. ABAZA STATES THAT " ONE OF ( SADAT'S) MOST FRANK STATEMENTS WAS HIS BLAME OF THE FRIENDLY SOVIET UNION FOLLOWING HIS WARNING THAT THE CURRENT FREEZE ( IN THE SITUATION) WOULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES."

4. WITHIN CONTEXT OF EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENTARY, SOVIET/ EGYPTIAN COMMUNIQUE OF MAY 29 FOLLOWING ZAYYAT'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IS SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS AVOIDANCE OF SPECIFICS AND, PARTICULARLY OF ITS LACK OF ANY HINT OF MARTIAL TONE. REGARDING ME SETTLEMENT, EGYPTIANS AND SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE AGREED ONLY ON BASIC PREMISE THAT A JUST PEACE CAN ONLY BE REALIZED THROUGH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

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FROM ALL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED AFTER 1967 COUPLED WITH SECURING OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ON EVENING WHEN COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED, AHRAH WAS INITIALLY INSTRUCTED NOT RPT NOT TO PUBLISH IT, BUT WAS TOLD LATTER TO RUN IT UNDER MINOR HEADLINE ON PAGE ONE. THIS SUGGESTS EGYPTIAN IRRITATION OVER ANODYNE PHRASING OF COMMUNIQUE.

5. COMMENT: PRESS COMMENTARY OUTLINED ABOVE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ORCHESTRATED BY GOE. SADAT AND HIS ADVISORS APPEAR TO BE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT NIXON/ BREZHNEV TALKS WILL LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING ON MIDDLE EAST THAT WILL NOT BE TO EGYPT'S LIKING. WHILE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR VILLAIN, CURRENT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH SOVIET UNION HAS DIVERTED A PORTION OF EGYPTIAN WRATH FROM US TO USSR. MOST LIKELY RESULT WILL BE INCREASED DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES TOWARDS EUROPE AND FELLOW ARABS AIMED AT SOLICITING ADDITIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR THE " CONFRONTATION" WITH ISRAEL.  
GREENE

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